

## 2003-47

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To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to light that currently there is an illegal, unconstitutional and brazenly political attempt to rob me and others like me with asbestos lung disease of our right to trial by jury. As if that news isn't distressing enough, to find out that the Michigan Supreme Court is considering taking the steps that would effectively change the laws denying us of our rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution is downright appalling.

The Petition behind proposed Court Rule No. 2003-47 was filed by an attorney with the law firm of Dickinson Wright. Two current members of the Michigan Supreme court used to work for this firm before they became judges. Does this give them the right to ignore the fundamental principles of separation of powers by different branches of government? What is their logic?

The bottom line is that I, and many workers like me, was inflicted with asbestosis from being exposed to asbestos on my job. The evidence shows many corporations that manufactured asbestos and property owners who used asbestos knew the dangers. Reason says there must be accountability; reality says big business, corporations, the asbestos industry, the law firm of Dickinson Wright, and certain conservative republican judges are trying to take working peoples' lawsuits out of court and away from juries. Something doesn't add up here.

If the Michigan Constitution as well as the United States Constitution makes it clear that judges are not to make law but interpret it, why is the Michigan Supreme Court allowing itself to be used as a pawn by the asbestos industry? Could it be that our extremely conservative Court feels so beholden to big business that it would violate basic Constitutional rights? Where is the justice for common citizens of our great country?

I am asking you to reconsider stepping beyond the boundaries of our Constitution and continue to interpret the law to settle the bona fide cases clogging the court system. The special interest behind the case of the asbestos lung disease makes it a frivolous hypocrisy.

Thank you,  
Gerald H. Lippert